

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY	East Germany
SUBJECT	Shortage of Glass Supplies in the East German Radio Tube Industry

DATE DISTR. 12 November 1954

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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Machine Construction has been hampered for a long time by the shortage of glass flasks. Almost all of the glass flasks used in these enterprises have come from VEB Spezialglaswerk Einheit in Weisswasser (Oberlausitz). This enterprise is under the Main Administration for Glass and Ceramics in the Ministry for Light Industry. While the quality of glass flasks delivered by this enterprise to the RFT factories producing all-purpose bulbs (Allgebrauchslampen) and radio tubes has been generally good, the enterprise has not been able to deliver them in sufficient quantities. That enterprise is also the only supplier for glass flasks to be used in the production of radio tubes by VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide. This latter kind of tubes does not meet the quality demands of the Berlin-Oberschoeneweide enterprise. Frequent interventions by the Ministry for Machine Construction, and particularly by HV RFT, with the Ministry for Light Industry with the purpose of having the quantity and quality of the Weisswasser glass flasks improved, have been uniformly unsuccessful, although the interventions included personal conferences between Minister Alfred Wunderlich, responsible for the Production Area General Machine Construction in the Ministry for Machine Construction, and Minister for Light Industry. In early 1954, Minister Feldmann, in order to meet the criticism of HV RFT, appointed a commission to investigate the reasons for the failure of the commission ended its work with a final report in which it was stated that the quality specifications of HV RFT were too high and could not be met.

2. In the meantime, the situation worsened. VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen, which delivers picture tubes to VEB Sachsenwerk Radeberg and to VEB EAW (Elektro-Apparatewerk J. W. Stalin, in Berlin-Treptow), was no longer able to fulfill its delivery obligations. Thus a situation had arisen in which VEB Sachsenwerk Radeberg was no longer able to carry out its export program of television receiver sets ("T2 Leningrad" and "Rembrandt") to the USSR. This situation was brought about by the fact that the glass flasks delivered by the Weisswasser enterprise to Berlin-Oberschoeneweide had a very high proportion of rejects. In addition, the

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the latter plant uses the flasks for the production of all-purpose bulbs. In the same way, the production of the enterprises manufacturing radio tubes was seriously threatened because it was receiving insufficient quantities of glass flasks from Weisswasser; the enterprises struck by the shortage of these glass flasks were VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide, VEB Funkwerk Erfurt, VEB Roehrenwerk Muehlhausen and VEB Roehrenwerk Anna Seghers in Neuhaus. As an example, of this shortage, the Berlin-Oberschoeneweide enterprise had a demand for 800,000 glass flasks for radio receiver tubes during the second half of 1954 which the Weisswasser enterprise was unable to cover and refused to contract for.

3. On 31 August 1954, HV RFT called meetings with leading personnel of VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide and VEB BGW in order to discuss the situation brought about by the failure of the Weisswasser enterprise to provide glass flasks in sufficient quantity and of the required quality. The following persons participated in the meeting with the Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen:

[REDACTED] nics in
f. [REDACTED] (fnu), Production Chief of VEB Spezialglaswerk Einheit in Weisswasser
g. A number of functionaries of HV RFT.

At this meeting, it was stated that the Berlin-Oberschoeneweide enterprise could fulfill its obligations to VEB Sachsenwerk Radeberg only if the Weisswasser enterprise was able to deliver a minimum of 800 glass flasks for television

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arrange for immediate measures to alleviate the situation; furthermore, the heads of the Main Administration for Glass and Ceramics in the Ministry for Light Industry and for Radio and Telecommunications Technology in the Ministry for Machine Construction should immediately establish a program for the purpose of increasing Weisswasser deliveries. In addition, Dr. Schiller was asked to apply immediately for a visitor's visa to Czechoslovakia in order to try to arrange there for immediate imports of glass flasks for picture tubes. In the conference with VEB BGW on the same day, the same persons took part and, in addition, the Technical Director of BGW, Dr. Borchert (fnu), and Department Head Ossmann (fnu) of the enterprise took part. It was stated that the deliveries of glass flasks for all-purpose bulbs from Weisswasser were entirely insufficient in quantity. One of the reasons for this insufficiency at the present time was pointed out: the Weisswasser enterprise had taken the obligation to deliver 50,000 glass flasks to DIA Glas und Keramik for export to Hungary and Poland.

4. The Ministry for Machine Construction, in order to remedy the situation as pointed out above, decided to apply to the Council of Ministers for:
- Immediate investments for new constructions and new equipment to be put at the disposal of VEB Glaswerk Strahlau, which is under the Main Administration for Glass and Ceramics in the Ministry for Light Industry, for the purpose of enabling this enterprise to take on a large part of the East German demands for glass flasks to be used in the production of all-purpose bulbs.
 - A change in the administrative status of VEB Spezialglaswerk Einheit in Weisswasser, putting the enterprise under the authority of HV RFT from 1 January 1955 on, in view of the fact that the largest part of its production goes to RFT enterprises.

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5. In the conference at VEB BGW, it was also stated that the Weisswasser production was severely hampered by the shortage of red lead (Bleimennige), which is needed for Bleiglas 352 for all-purpose and radio tube flasks. There is only one small deposit of this material in East Germany in the Ordruff region, but it is entirely insufficient. It was stated, however, that several freight cars of this material had been loaded [redacted] a few days before for export to East Germany. After the arrival of this red lead, the difficulties would be overcome for a certain period.

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Comment: It was highly improbable that Schiller would successfully perform this mission. The capacity of Czechoslovak glass flask production for picture tubes was entirely taken up.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Production in the enterprises under the Main Administration for Radio and Telecommunications Technology (RV RPT) of the East German Ministry for Machine Construction has been hampered for a long time by the shortage of glass flasks. Almost all of the glass flasks used in these enterprises have come from VEB Spezialglaswerk Einheit in Weisswasser (Oberlausitz). This enterprise is under the Main Administration for Glass and Ceramics in the Ministry for Light Industry. While the quality of glass flasks delivered by this enterprise to the RPT factories producing all-purpose bulbs (Allgebrauchslampen) and radio tubes has been generally good, the enterprise has not been able to deliver them in sufficient quantities. That enterprise is also the only supplier for glass flasks to be used in the production of television picture tubes by VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen (HF-Werk) (TV pnt in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide. This latter kind of glass flasks has never satisfied the quality demands of the Berlin-Oberschoeneweide enterprise. Frequent interventions by the Ministry for Machine Construction, and particularly by RV RPT, with the Ministry for Light Industry with the purpose of having the quantity and quality of the Weisswasser glass flasks improved, have been uniformly unsuccessful, although the interventions included personal conferences between Minister Alfred Wunderlich, responsible for Production Area General Machine Construction in the Ministry for Machine Construction, and Minister for Light Industry Wilhelm Feldmann. In early 1954, Minister Feldmann, in order to meet the constant criticism of RV RPT, appointed a commission to investigate the situation, but the commission ended its work with a final report in which it was stated that the quality specifications of RV RPT were too high and could not be met.

2. In the meantime, the situation worsened. VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen, which delivers picture tubes to VEB Sachsenwerk Radeberg and to VEB EAW (Elektro-Apparatewerk J. W. Stalin, in Berlin-Treptow), was no longer able to fulfill its delivery obligations. Thus a situation had arisen in which VEB Sachsenwerk Radeberg was no longer able to carry out its export program of television receiver sets ("T2 Leningrad" and "Rembrandt") to the USSR. This situation was brought about by the fact that the glass flasks delivered by the Weisswasser enterprise to Berlin-Oberschoeneweide had a very high proportion of rejects. In addition, the quantities of glass flasks delivered by Weisswasser to VEB BGT (Berliner Gluehlampenwerk) and to VEB Gluehlampenwerk Ilmenau was extremely insufficient in late spring and summer 1954.

Note: Usually referred to in the United States as "glass envelopes".

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the latter plant uses the flasks for the production of all-purpose bulbs. In the same way, the production of the enterprises manufacturing radio tubes was seriously threatened because it was receiving insufficient quantities of glass flasks from Weisswasser; the enterprises struck by the shortage of these glass flasks were VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide, VEB Funkwerk Erfurt, VEB Roehrenwerk Muehlhausen and VEB Roehrenwerk Anna Seghers in Neuhaus. As an example of this shortage, the Berlin-Oberschoeneweide enterprise had a demand for 800,000 glass flasks for radio receiver tubes during the second half of 1954 which the Weisswasser enterprise was unable to cover and refused to contract for.

3. On 31 August 1954, HV RFT called meetings with leading personnel of VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide and VEB BGW in order to discuss the situation brought about by the failure of the Weisswasser enterprise to provide glass flasks in sufficient quantity and of the required quality. The following persons participated in the meeting with the Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen:

- a. The Technical Director of the HF-Werk, Dr. Alfred Schiller
- b. The Deputy Manager of the enterprise, Bormann (fnu)
- c. The Commercial Director of the enterprise, Rohde (fnu)
- d. A number of technicians of the enterprise
- e. Schwarzfeld (fnu), of the Main Administration for Glass and Ceramics in the Ministry for Light Industry
- f. Krieg (fnu), Production Chief of VEB Spezialglaswerk Einheit in Weisswasser
- g. A number of functionaries of HV RFT.

At this meeting, it was stated that the Berlin-Oberschoeneweide enterprise could fulfill its obligations to VEB Sachsenwerk Radeberg only if the Weisswasser enterprise was able to deliver a minimum of 800 glass flasks for television receiver tubes per day. When the Weisswasser representative stated that his enterprise would be able to deliver only 450 glass flasks per day at the most, the representatives of the HF-Werk said that this would have an adverse effect not only on the production of the HF-Werk but also on the export program of VEB Sachsenwerk Radeberg. It was decided at this meeting that a conference between Minister Wunderlich and Minister Reimann would be held to arrange for immediate measures to alleviate the situation; furthermore, the heads of the Main Administration for Glass and Ceramics in the Ministry for Light Industry and for Radio and Telecommunications Technology in the Ministry for Machine Construction should immediately establish a program for the purpose of increasing Weisswasser deliveries. In addition, Dr. Schiller was asked to apply immediately for a visitor's visa to Czechoslovakia in order to try to arrange there for immediate imports of glass flasks for picture tubes. In the conference with VEB BGW on the same day, the same persons took part and in addition the Technical Director of BGW, Dr. Borchert (fnu), and Department Head Ossmann (fnu) of the enterprise took part. It was stated that the deliveries of glass flasks for all-purpose bulbs from Weisswasser were entirely insufficient in quantity. One of the reasons for this insufficiency at the present time was pointed out: the Weisswasser enterprise had taken the obligation to deliver 50,000 glass flasks to DIA Glas und Keramik for export to Hungary and Poland.

4. The Ministry for Machine Construction, in order to remedy the situation as pointed out above, decided to apply to the Council of Ministers for:
- a. Immediate investments for new constructions and new equipment to be put at the disposal of VEB Glaswerk Strahlau, which is under the Main Administration for Glass and Ceramics in the Ministry for Light Industry, for the purpose of enabling this enterprise to take on a large part of the East German demands for glass flasks to be used in the production of all-purpose bulbs.
 - b. A change in the administrative status of VEB Spezialglaswerk Einheit in Weisswasser, putting the enterprise under the authority of HV RFT from 1 January 1955 on, in view of the fact that the largest part of its production goes to RFT enterprises.

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5. In the conference at VEB BGW, it was also stated that the Weisswasser production was severely hampered by the shortage of red lead (Bleimennige, which is needed for Bleiglas 352 for all-purpose and radio tube flasks. There is only one small deposit of this material in East Germany in the Ordruft region, but it is entirely insufficient. It was stated, however, that several freight cars of this material had been loaded [redacted] a few days before for export to East Germany. After the arrival of this red lead, the difficulties would be overcome for a certain period.

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